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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

1 May 1970

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Soviet Military Estimates

1. Attached are outlines of the four estimates we propose this year on Soviet military programs and activities. They represent slight variations from our approach of previous years, so as to be more responsive to the needs of the policy planners.

2. We are: a) limiting NIE 11-8-70 to intercontinental attack in order to concentrate on the major problem; b) including Soviet capabilities [redacted]; c) focussing

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[redacted] on Soviet military forces for operations along their periphery in Eurasia (particularly opposite NATO in the west and Communist China in the east) and including in this discussion the strategic forces for peripheral attack previously covered in NIE 11-8; and d) writing a new estimate [redacted] dealing

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with Soviet military capabilities, programs, and activities beyond their borders in more distant areas. The outlines indicate our approach in more detail.

3. In each of the estimates we intend to give a fuller discussion of some of the more controversial issues than in the past, presenting some alternatives in addition to the view considered most likely. This discussion as well as any lengthy dissents would be handled in annexes. We also expect to use annexes for more detailed exposition of weapon system characteristics, force descriptions, and the like. We hope in this manner to be able in the body of the estimate to focus more clearly on the major problems. We are also, in response to a request from the Secretary of Defense, giving more specific attention to the period 2-5 years in the future. (In this connection, it should be noted that we will no longer be doing a NIPP.)

4. We expect to discuss this approach within CIA at a meeting called for 1430 on Tuesday, 5 May, 1970.

ABBOT SMITH  
Director  
National Estimates

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